

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJ: MORE ON BORDER SHOOTING

REF: TIJUANA 0390, TIJUANA 0396

1. SHOOTING OF TWO TIJUANA POLICEMEN BY SAN DIEGO POLICE OFFICERS STILL VERY MUCH AN ISSUE HERE BUT ONE WHICH MOST IF NOT ALL TIJUANA AND SAN DIEGO AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BE DETERMINED TO HANDLE IN COOPERATIVE AND AMICABLE MANNER. SAN DIEGO MAYOR WILSON, AS RESULT OF INCIDENT, IS PRESSING AGAIN FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN RESOLUTION OF SAN DIEGO'S BORDER PROBLEMS. THERE FOLLOWS SUMMARY OF SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS.

2. (A) SAN DIEGO POLICE CHIEF KOLLENDAR, ON BASIS "NEW EVIDENCE", REVERSED HIS EARLIER DECISION, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, NOT TO FILE CHARGES AGAINST TIJUANA OFFICER. OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ARRAIGNED JULY 21, ON CHARGE OF ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON. HE PLEADED NOT GUILTY AND JUDGE SET 5080 BAIL. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER BAIL POSTED.

(B) SENIOR SAN DIEGO OFFICERS WERE MEETING JULY 22 WITH TIJUANA AND STATE JUDICIAL POLICE COUNTERPARTS. PRESUMABLY THIS MAY INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT OF TIJUANA OFFICER THAT HE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOT IN MEXICAN TERRITORY AND DRAGGED BACK ACROSS BORDER BY SAN DIEGO POLICE.

(C) MAYORS AND CHIEFS OF POLICE OF SAN DIEGO AND TIJUANA WILL HAVE DINNER IN TIJUANA JULY 25 AS DEMONSTRATION CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS. CONGEN OFFICERS ALSO INVITED AND WILL ATTEND.

(D) TIJUANA LEADERS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT TIJUANA OFFICERS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WHERE THEY WERE AND SHOULD NOT HAVE INVOLVED SELVES IN MATTERS CONCERNING PRESUMED ILLEGALS. MEXICAN POBLACION OFFICE HERE HAS IN ADDITION ON INSTRUCTIONS PROTESTED TO TIJUANA LEADERS POLICE INVOLVING SELVES IN IMMIGRATION MATTERS.

(E) TIJUANA PRESS, WHILE GIVING FULL COVERAGE, HAS TREATED INCIDENT IN REASONABLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER. PAPERS WHICH ARE NOT SUPPORTIVE OF TIJUANA LEADERS HAVE USED OCCASION TO CRITICIZE THESE MEN FOR ALLEGED INABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR POLICE.

3. ADDITIONALLY MAYOR PETE WILSON JULY 22 WROTE TO PRESIDENT CARTER (COPIES SENT SECSTATE, INS COMMISSIONER AND AMBASSADOR LUCEY) AGAIN URGING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR SAN DIEGO'S BORDER PROBLEMS. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN LETTER BUT TOLD IT IS IN STRONG TERMS. WE DO NOT WISH PUT WORDS IN MAYOR'S MOUTH BUT AS WE UNDERSTAND HIS VIEWS, HE BELIEVES THAT CRIME ALONG THE BORDER ARISES OUT OF THE FAILURE OR INABILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE FEDERAL (I.E. IMMIGRATION) LAW. ALTHOUGH SAN DIEGO, IN HIS VIEW, HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE ILLEGALS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITHIN SAN DIEGO CITY LIMITS, THE CITY DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES INDEFINITELY TO CONTINUE (IT IS NOW SPENDING ROUGHLY 200,000 ANNUALLY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ALONG THE BORDER), NOR SHOULD IT BE TASKED WITH

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DOING A FEDERAL JOB.

4. WE HOPE TO COMMENT LATER AS TIME ALLOWS.
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